

**Irene Howard fonds**

RBSC-ARC-1257

Finding aid

Sergey Kovynev, Lisa Snider, Lindsay Szymanski  
December, 2009

Rare Books and Special Collections  
University of British Columbia Library

**Table of contents**

Fonds description..... 3

Series descriptions..... 5

File lists

    Association involvement and general interest files..... 7

    Interview recordings..... 8

    Research related photographs and maps..... 8

    Records related to literary activities..... 9

    NDP campaign materials..... 10

    Materials related to Ronald Liversedge..... 10

## **Fonds description**

### **Irene Howard fonds.**

1967 – 1997.

73 cm of textual and other materials.

**Biographical sketch:** Irene Howard is a freelance writer, researcher, broadcaster, literary agent and teacher of English literature. She was born in Prince Rupert, B.C. on November 19, 1922 to a Swedish father and Norwegian mother, and has lived most of her life in British Columbia. She obtained a permanent teaching certificate from the University of Victoria in 1943 and graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1948. She went back to UBC in 1964 and obtained her MA in English, specializing in medieval literature. She taught at the elementary school, college and university levels from 1941 – 1983. She was a full-time lecturer at UBC from 1964 – 1965, a full-time instructor at Vancouver City College in 1971, and a full-time instructor at Capilano College from 1977 – 1983.

Howard's interest in her Swedish heritage led her to write her first book, *Vancouver's Svenskar: A History of the Swedish Community in Vancouver* published by the Vancouver Historical Society in 1970. She published several articles on the life and work of Vancouver writer Ethel Wilson (1888 – 1980). She researched and wrote an article about the Branvolds, "The Brandvolts of Diamond Head", who developed the Diamond Head area of Garibaldi Mountain in the 1940s and 1950s. She had a great interest in aural history research, and taped interviews of members and survivors of Vancouver's turn-of-the-century "high society" families which culminated in an article called "High Tea: Society in the Old West End." In 1992, she wrote a biography of social reformer Helena Gutteridge, the first woman elected to Vancouver City Council in 1912. Howard was also the literary agent and editor for Ronald Liversedge and worked on his unpublished manuscript, *A Memoir of the Spanish Civil War*. She went on to publish other books, such as one on Bowen Island in 1973 and one based on her family history called *Gold Dust on His Shirt*.

Irene Howard is also a member of several organizations, (such as the Vancouver International Folkdancers) and was a candidate agent for the B.C. New Democratic Party in 1996. Her interests included issues relating to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, nuclear disarmament, the peace movement and the Vancouver West End Tenant Association.

**Scope and content:** The Irene Howard fonds consists of general correspondence and materials related to Howard's personal interests and associations, and materials relating to her work as researcher, literary agent and writer. The fonds is divided into seven series: Association involvement and general interest; Interview recordings; Photographs and maps; 'Monday Morning' magazine issues; Literary activities; NDP campaigns materials; and Materials related to Ronald Liversedge. The materials include research notes, notebooks, file cards, photocopied materials from various sources, correspondence (with publishers, research subjects, colleagues, librarians and archivists), drafts of her books

and essays, biographical materials, newsletters, magazines, newspaper clippings, articles, pamphlets, brochures, photographs and cassette tapes.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

**Physical description:** Apart from textual material fonds contains 25 photographs, 4 maps on illustration boards and 18 sound recordings.

**Immediate source of acquisition note:** Material was first transferred by Irene Howard on October 5, 1984 and officially gifted in January 6, 1986. A subsequent accrual was added in 2006.

**Arrangement Note:** The RAD-compliant description was prepared by Sergey Kovynev, Lisa Snider and Lindsay Szymanski in December, 2009 based on the existing arrangement.

**Language:** The majority of materials are in English, with some Swedish research materials present.

**Rights note:** Literary rights are held by Irene Howard indefinitely.

**Finding aids:** A file list is available as a supplement to this description.

**Accruals note:** Further accruals are expected.

**Related groups of records note:** International Order of Good Templars fonds (donated in part by Irene Howard) and Ethel Wilson fonds, both in UBC RBSC.

**General note:** Books and publications from Irene Howard's personal library have been added to the general book collection at Rare Books and Special Collections.

## **Series descriptions**

### **Association involvement and general interest files.**

1968 – 1984.

7.5 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** The materials included in the series are associated with Howard's Brief to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in March 1968, involvement with the nuclear disarmament and peace movements, the West End Tenant's Association, the Vancouver International Folkdancers, and with her interest in aural history. The series also include notes on members of the Malkin family and Ethel Wilson and notes and transcripts of various interviews with Mom's Repairs. Irene Howard's biographical material, such as CVs and lists of publications and talks, are also presented in the series.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

### **Interview recordings.**

[ca. 1965-1979].

18 audio cassettes.

**Scope and content:** Series contains a total of 18 cassette tapes recorded by Irene Howard. Some were conducted in the course of research on the life of Ethel Wilson. These include interviews and/or discussions with Lila Malkin, Lucile Parsons, D'Uyly Rochfort and Mrs. George Thompson. The other interviews related to the history of Vancouver's West End with Mr. G.E. Eldridge, Mrs. A.D. Bell-Irving, Elspeth Cherniavsky and Henry Randolph Clyne. The other interviews include Clyde Turner on Woodward's Department Store and Bill Beacon of Berryland Farms. There is one interview that contains material for broadcast, called Mom's Repairs.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

### **Research related photographs and maps.**

[1890?] – 1970.

23 photographs : b&w ; 34.5 x 29.5 cm and smaller.

4 maps on illustration boards.

**Scope and content:** Series contains various black and white photographs related to Swedish culture and Swedes in B.C (some labelled and dated). Images include: reproductions of historical photos from the B.C. Provincial Archives and the Vancouver Public Library; hand drawn maps of Sweden on illustration boards and two oversized photographs of railroad workers (unidentified).

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

**Records related to literary activities.**

1967 – 1982.

60.5 cm of textual records.

2 photographs : b&w ; 23 x 18 cm.

**Scope and content:** Series includes materials related to Howard's book *Vancouver Svenskar: A History of the Swedish Community in Vancouver* and research on Swedes in Canada and in B.C., to Irene Howard's activity as editor and literary agent for Ronald Liversedge and his unpublished memoir '*Memoirs of the Spanish Civil War*' and her involvement in the Writer's Union of Canada. The material included in the series also pertains to Howard's research and articles on the Branvolds of Diamond Head, Ethel Wilson and on "high society" in Vancouver's West End at the turn of the century with transcripts of taped interviews with Joseph Malkin, Lila Molson, Elspeth Cherniavsky, Mrs. A. W. Bell-Irving, H.R. Clyne and Gardner S. Eldridge. There is also correspondence from Arne Johnson regarding lumber unions, a Swedish pamphlet on the Industrial Workers of the World, and two black and white publicity photos of Irene Howard in this series.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

**NDP campaign materials.**

1992 – 1997.

1.5 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series contains newspaper clippings, election material and press releases created during various election and leadership campaigns in the mid 1990's, including Jim Green for MLA in 1996 and Bill Siksay for MP in 1996-1997.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

**Materials related to Ronald Liversedge.**

[1970?]-1971.

3.5 cm of textual records.

**Scope and content:** Series consisting of materials created during Howard's work as a literary agent and editor for the author Ronald Liversedge. Materials include: an annotated draft of Liversedge's unpublished '*A Memoir of the Spanish Civil War*' and a letter from Liversedge to Howard.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the series.

**Related groups of records:** This series is related to the Liversedge material in the Literary activities series.

## **File list**

**Series:** Association involvement and general interest files.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1-1	CVs and lists of publications and talks	1977-[1979?]
1-2	Royal Commission on the Status of Women brief	1968-1970
1-3	Nuclear disarmament and peace movement	[197?]-1982
1-4	Vancouver West End Tenant's Association	1980-1984
1-5	Scoop newsletters	1983-1984
1-6	Vancouver International Folkdancers	1968-1984
1-7	Aural history materials	[197?]-1981

**Series:** Interview recordings.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
SP-35: 1-18	Sound recordings of interviews	[197-?]

**Series:** Research related photographs and maps.

<b>File (Box-file)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1-8	Provincial Archives photograph #21773 Peter Larsen's Hotel at North Vancouver 1907	1965-1975
1-8	Provincial Archives photograph #27916 Leland Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.	1965-1975
1-8	Provincial Archives photograph #9278 view of Carroll St, Vancouver	1965-1975
1-8	Photograph of Paul Axal Boving oil painting	1965-1975
1-8	Anticipating the Lucia Photograph from The Province Newspaper December 12, 1970	1965-1975
1-8	Centennial Museum Vancouver photograph of The Christmas Ram	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of church building	1965-1975
1-8	UBC Special Collections photograph of Brother Arvid Lind	1965-1975
1-8	The logger's navy photograph	1965-1975
1-8	Special Collections photograph of Paul Axal	1965-1975

	Boving oil painting	
1-8	Midsummer festival at Swedish park: raising the maypole photograph	1965-1975
1-8	B.A. Cannery and net house in Ladner photograph	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of logger in forest	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of Hastings Mill	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of advertisement on match container with Hotel North Vancouver on it	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of Hastings Mills	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of Pete Larson Proprietor	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of Gas Town 1870	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of Pete Larson's North Vancouver Hotel on matchcase	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of Pete Larson's North Vancouver Hotel	1965-1975
1-8	Vancouver Public Library photograph of First Swedish Luthern Church at Pender and Princess 1910	1965-1975
1-8	Map of Scandinavia	1965-1975
1-8	Map of Vancouver 1887	1965-1975
1-8	Map of Sweden in Swedish	1965-1975
1-8	Map of Sweden close up in Swedish	1965-1975
7-1	Two oversize photographs of railroad workers	[189-?]

**Series:** Records related to literary activities.

<b>Location (Box-file)</b>	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
2-1	Research proposal, notes and correspondence with Swedes in Canada	1976-1980
2-2	Research notes on Swedes in B.C.	1962-1970
2-3	Research notes on Swedes in B.C.	1947-1971
2-4	Research notes on Swedish Emigrant Institutet, Vaxjo, Sweden	1961-1980
2-5	Correspondence with Swedes in B.C.	1967-1971
2-6	Book draft of ' <i>Vancouver's Svenskar: A History of the Swedish Community in Vancouver</i> '	1970
3-1	Book draft of ' <i>Vancouver's Svenskar: A History of</i>	1970

	<i>the Swedish Community in Vancouver'</i>	
3-2	Book reviews, publicity and notices related to book ' <i>Vancouver's Svenskar</i> '	1970-1976
3-3	New Horizons Project	1972-1975
3-4	Research notes on Ronald Liversedge	1971
3-5	MacKenzie Papineau Battalion of Canada materials	1976-1978
3-6	Outgoing correspondence to publishers regarding Liversedge	1971-1975
3-7	Incoming correspondence from publishers regarding Liversedge	1971-1974
3-8	Liversedge correspondence and research materials	1971-1978
3-9	Correspondence with Liversedge	1971-1978
3-10	Draft of ' <i>Memoirs of the Spanish Civil War</i> '	[196-?]
4-1	Research notes and materials on the Brandvolds	1974-1980
4-2	Research notes on the Brandvolds	1974
4-3	Transcripts and research material on the Brandvolds	1975
4-4	Outgoing correspondence related to publishing and the Brandvolds	1974-1975
4-5	Incoming correspondence related to publishing and the Brandvolds	1974-1975
4-6	Draft of ' <i>The Brandvolts of Diamond Head</i> '	1976
5-1	Research notes on West End society	[197-?]
5-2	Transcripts of taped interviews on West End society	1977-1978
5-3	Transcripts of taped interviews on West End society	1977-[197-?]
5-4	Correspondence relating to West End society	1977-1979
5-5	Draft of ' <i>High Tea: Society in the Old West End</i> '	1979
5-6	Research proposal for Ethel Wilson book	1978-1980
6-1	Research notes regarding Ethel Wilson	[197-?]
6-2	Research notes regarding Ethel Wilson	[197-?]
6-3	Research notes regarding Ethel Wilson	[197-?]
6-4	Research notes, index and file cards relating to Ethel Wilson	[197-?]
6-5	Outgoing correspondence relating to Ethel Wilson	1978-1981
6-6	Incoming correspondence relating to Ethel Wilson	1975-1981
6-7	Draft of ' <i>Shockable and Unshockable: Methodists in the Innocent Traveller</i> '	[197-?]
6-8	Writers Union of Canada materials	1981-1982
6-9	Correspondence from Arne Johnson	1968-1969
6-10	'What is the I.W.W.?' Industrial Workers of the World pamphlet (in Swedish)	[197-?]
O/S	Reproductions from Vancouver Sun and B.C.	1934-1947

**Series:** NDP campaign materials.

**Location  
(Box-file)**

8-1	NDP elections materials: Provincial and Federal	1996-1997
8-2	NDP leadership campaign materials	1992-1995

**Series:** Materials related to Ronald Liversedge.

**Location  
(Box-file)**

	<b>File title</b>	<b>Date</b>
8-3	Letter from Ronald Liversedge to Irene Howard	[197-] - 1971
8-4	Draft of ' <i>A Memoir of the Spanish Civil War</i> '	[1970?]
8-5	Draft of ' <i>A Memoir of the Spanish Civil War</i> '	[1970?]